

Selection Criteria

- 1.) **Clarity.** The Selection Committee needs to understand why you think the event is a good fit for the festival and what the audience will experience. If these basic elements are not clear, it is hard for the committee to evaluate whether you have the capacity to pull off what you're proposing.
- 2.) ***Theme (required).** The theme should not be an afterthought in your planning. Your event idea needs to emanate from the theme and should be central to what the audience will experience and reflect upon.
- 3.) ***Civic Tools (required).** Intentional use of the arts, humanities, and/or religion is a key criterion. If an event proposal says it is using the arts, how so? If it is tied to the humanities, which *specific disciplines* are being used? How might a faith-inspired event examine a tradition's beliefs, practices, or texts?
- 4.) ***Collaborative (required).** You must collaborate with at least one other external partner. "Collaboration" is broadly defined (e.g., venue partner, promotional partner, etc.). At the same time, collaborations between—rather than within—the arts, religion, and humanities are given preference as are collaborations that are co-creative and share authority.
- 5.) **Inventiveness.** Does this event offer a "wow-like" approach with fresh insights, bold topics, thought-provoking speakers, creative partnerships, an inventive format, or a unique venue?
- 6.) **Audience Care.** The Selection Committee will be looking for design strategies that involve the senses, physical movement, and/or the intellectual and creative contributions from the audience. The committee wants to understand how you have shaped your event around your audiences' needs—including their time and desire to share their own experiences.
- 7.) **Commitment Beyond Self.** If the committee thinks your only goal for applying to the festival is for marketing purposes or to elevate your brand or organization, we're not a good fit. **The Spirit & Place Festival is a communal experience.** Your event is part of a collective whole and Spirit & Place's values of reciprocity, abundance, emergence, and centering people need to be part of your intentions.

The Selection Committee often gives **special preference** and highly ranks applications that provide:

- **"Never-before-seen" opportunities** that illuminate the theme.
- Dynamic and **interactive events**.
- **Diverse ideas, people, and organizations.**
- Creative endeavors that inspire attendees to be more **engaged** in their communities.
- **Collaborations** based on shared authority and co-creation.
- Interdisciplinary events featuring the **arts, humanities, & religion**.
- Interfaith events involving **non-Abrahamic traditions**.
- **Opportunities that highlight, celebrate, and intentionally include** the complex diversity of our community across faith traditions, age spans (we welcome youth events!), life experiences, and ability levels.